Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A guiding apparatus ~~device~~ for a cutting or welding torch, which is controllable in such a way that the cutting or welding torch follows a predetermined desired contour[[line]], the apparatus ~~guiding device~~ comprising:

a portal including a through opening, into which a workpiece can be guided in an axial direction;

a rotary part, which is rotatable about the axis of the through opening in a motor-driven manner;

a holding arm, which at its free end carries the cutting or welding torch and with its other end is fixed in such a way to the rotary part and configured in such a way that the cutting or welding torch can be adjusted radially in relation to the axis of the through opening of the portal and brought into different angular positions in relation to the surface of the workpiece, wherein the holding arm comprises three sections, of which a first section extends substantially radially and is mounted so as to be displaceable in this direction by motor, of which a second section is fixed to the first section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which runs in the azimuthal direction in relation to the through opening of the portal, and of which a third section is fixed to the second section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which runs parallel to the axis of the through opening; and,

a device, by which a relative movement between the workpiece and the cutting or welding torch in the axial direction of the through opening can be brought about.

2. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 1, wherein the rotary part rotatable about the through opening is a ring or a ring segment which is mounted in a guide arranged on one end face of the portal.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 1 wherein the device for producing the relative movement is designed in such a way that it can adjust the workpiece in the direction of the axis of the through opening of the portal.

5. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 4, wherein the device for producing the relative movement comprises a carry-along slide, which is movable parallel to the axis of the through opening and can be brought into carry-along connection with the workpiece.

6. (withdrawn and currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 1, wherein the device for producing the relative movement is designed in such a way that it can adjust the cutting or welding torch in the direction of the axis of the through opening of the portal.

7. (withdrawn and currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 6, wherein the device for producing the relative movement is formed by the holding arm, which for this purpose comprises five interconnected sections,

the first section being fixed to the rotary part;

the second section being fixed to the first section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which runs in the azimuthal direction in relation to the through opening of the portal;

the third section being fixed to the second section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which likewise runs in the azimuthal direction in relation to the through opening of the portal;

the fourth section being fixed to the third section so as to be rotatable by motor about the axis of the third section; and,

the fifth section, which carries the cutting or welding torch, being fixed to the fourth section so as to be rotatable about an axis which runs perpendicular to the axis of the fourth section.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 1 wherein a guide is provided for the workpiece in the through opening of the portal.

11. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 10, wherein the guide comprises a plurality of guide rollers which can be laid against the surface of the workpiece.

12. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 11, wherein the guide rollers can be driven by motor.

13. (currently amended): The guiding apparatus ~~device~~ of Claim 1 wherein the position of the through opening is adjustable in the vertical and/or horizontal direction.

14-47. (canceled)

48. (new): A guiding apparatus for a cutting or welding torch, which is controllable in such a way that the cutting or welding torch follows a predetermined desired contour, the apparatus comprising:

a portal including a through opening, into which a workpiece can be guided in an axial direction;

a rotary part, which is rotatable about the axis of the through opening in a motor-driven manner;

a holding arm, which at its free end carries the cutting or welding torch and with its other end is fixed in such a way to the rotary part and configured in such a way that the cutting or welding torch can be adjusted radially in relation to the axis of the through opening of the portal and brought into different angular positions in relation to the surface of the workpiece; and,

a device, by which a relative movement between the workpiece and the cutting or welding torch in the axial direction of the through opening can be brought about, wherein the device for producing the relative movement comprises a carry-along slide that is designed in such a way that it can adjust the workpiece in the direction of the axis of the through opening of the portal and which is movable parallel to the axis of the through opening and can be brought into carry-along connection with the workpiece.

49. (new): A guiding apparatus for a cutting or welding torch, which is controllable in such a way that the cutting or welding torch follows a predetermined desired contour, the apparatus comprising:

a portal including a through opening, into which a workpiece can be guided in an axial direction;

a rotary part, which is rotatable about the axis of the through opening in a motor-driven manner and wherein the rotary part rotatable about the through opening is a ring or a ring segment which is mounted in a guide arranged on one end face of the portal;

a holding arm, which at its free end carries the cutting or welding torch and with its other end is fixed in such a way to the rotary part and configured in such a way that the cutting or welding torch can be adjusted radially in relation to the axis of the through opening of the portal and brought into different angular positions in relation to the surface of the workpiece, wherein the holding arm comprises three sections, of which a first section extends substantially radially and is mounted so as to be displaceable in this direction by motor, of which a second section is fixed to the first section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which runs in the azimuthal direction in relation to the through opening of the portal, and of which a third section is fixed to the second section so as to be rotatable by motor about an axis which runs parallel to the axis of the through opening; and,

a device, by which a relative movement between the workpiece and the cutting or welding torch in the axial direction of the through opening can be brought about.

50. (new): A guiding apparatus for a cutting or welding torch, which is controllable in such a way that the cutting or welding torch follows a predetermined desired contour, the apparatus comprising:

a portal including a through opening, into which a workpiece can be guided in an axial direction;

a rotary part, which is rotatable about the axis of the through opening in a motor-driven manner;

a holding arm, which at its free end carries the cutting or welding torch and with its other end is fixed in such a way to the rotary part and configured in such a way that the cutting or

welding torch can be adjusted radially in relation to the axis of the through opening of the portal and brought into different angular positions in relation to the surface of the workpiece; and,

a motor driven device, by which a relative movement between the workpiece and the cutting or welding torch in the axial direction of the through opening can be brought about.